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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/814,291	04/01/2004	Morio Ando	008312-0309050	6123

909 7590 12/18/2006

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EXAMINER	
TRAN, TRANG U	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2622	

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	12/18/2006	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/814,291	ANDO, MORIO	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Trang U. Tran	2622	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-12* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-12* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *4/1/2004*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-2 and 7-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipate by Takada et al. (US Patent No. 6,985,189 B1).

In considering claim 1, Takada et al discloses all the claimed subject matter, note 1) the claimed a signal selection apparatus comprising: a plurality of digital signal input terminals is met by the plurality of digital input terminals 2-5 (Fig. 1, col. 4, line 51 to col. 6, line 11), 2) the claimed a signal processing unit having a video display unit and configured to process signals input from the plurality of digital signal input terminals and to output the processed signals to the video display unit is met by digital signal processing circuit 30 (Fig. 1, col. 6, line 38 to col. 7, line 64), 3) the claimed an input state detection unit configured to detect input states of signals to the plurality of digital signal input terminals is met by the control section 50 (Fig. 1, col. 11, line 3 to col. 13, line 54), and 4) the claimed a selection/supply unit configured to select, when the input state detection unit detects that a signal is input to only one of the plurality of digital signal input terminals, that input signal and supply the selected input signal to the signal

processing unit, and to select, when the input state detection unit detects that signals are input to the plurality of digital signal input terminals, an input signal input to the digital signal input terminal, which is designated in advance, and supply the selected input signal to the signal processing unit is met by the host CPU 52 and the traffic controller 20 (Fig. 1, col. 11, line 3 to col. 13, line 54).

Claim 2 is rejected for the same reason as discussed in claim 1 and further the claimed a designation unit configured to preferentially designate a predetermined one of the plurality of digital signal input terminals in response to a user's designation is met by the control section 50 which discriminates whether or not the selection input from the user designates selection (Fig. 1, col. 11, line 3 to col. 13, line 54).

In considering claim 7, the claimed wherein the signal processing unit includes an adjustment circuit which adjusts quality of a video reflected on a signal selected by the selection/supply unit in accordance with a type of the selected signal is met by the network interface units 11-15 which perform also adjustment of digital data to be outputted from the multimedia terminal equipment (Fig. 1, col. 6, line 5 to col. 7, line 18).

Claim 8 is rejected for the same reason as discussed in claim 7.

In considering claim 9, Takada et al discloses all the claimed subject matter, note 1) the claimed further comprising an analog signal input terminal which inputs an analog signal is met by the input terminal 1 for accepting an input of an analog television broadcast signal (Fig. 1, col. 4, lines 51-62), and 2) the claimed wherein the signal processing unit processes one of a signal selected by the selection/supply unit and a signal input to the analog signal input terminal, and includes an adjustment circuit which

adjusts quality of a video reflected on the processed signal in accordance with a type of the processed signal is met by the network interface units 11-15 which perform also adjustment of digital data to be outputted from the multimedia terminal equipment (Fig. 1, col. 6, line 5 to col. 7, line 18).

Claim 10 is rejected for the same reason as discussed in claim 9.

In considering claim 11, discloses all the claimed subject matter, note 1) the claimed detecting input states of signals to the plurality of digital signal input terminals is met by the control section 50 (Fig. 1, col. 11, line 3 to col. 13, line 54), and 2) the claimed selecting, when it is detected that a signal is input to only one of the plurality of digital signal input terminals, a signal input to that digital signal input terminal, and selecting, when it is detected that signals are input to the plurality of digital signal input terminals, a signal input to the digital signal input terminal, which is designated in advance is met by the host CPU 52 and the traffic controller 20 (Fig. 1, col. 11, line 3 to col. 13, line 54).

Claim 12 is rejected for the same reason as discussed in claim 11 and further the claimed preferentially designating a predetermined one of the plurality of digital signal input terminals in response to a user's designation is met by the control section 50 which discriminates whether or not the selection input from the user designates selection (Fig. 1, col. 11, line 3 to col. 13, line 54).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 3-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takada et al. (US Patent No. 6,985,189 B1) in view of Utsunomiya et al. (US Patent No. 6,738,101 B1).

In considering claim 3, Takada et al disclose all the limitations of the instant invention as discussed in claim 1 above, except for providing the claimed further comprising a display control unit configured to display information associated with the input states to the plurality of digital signal input terminals on the video display unit on the basis of detection of signal inputs to the plurality of digital signal input terminals by the input state detection unit. Utsunomiya et al teach that the OSD-generating unit 18 generates OSD information showing the transmission channel number, the source apparatus ID and the format information from the transmission channel number of channel field, the source apparatus ID of the SID field and the format information of the EMT field received from the control unit 30, supplying the OSD information to the superposition circuit 19 and display (Figs. 3 and 6, col. 15, line 17 to col. 16, line 59). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the display input state as taught by Utsunomiya et al's system in order to prevent the user from incorrectly misinterpreting the undisplayed digital data as a failure occurring in an apparatus.

Claim 4 is rejected for the same reason as discussed in claim 3.

In considering claim 5, Takada et al disclose all the limitations of the instant invention as discussed in claim 1 above, except for providing the claimed further comprising a display control unit configured to display information associated with an input source of a signal selected by the selection/supply unit on the video display unit. Utsunomiya et al teach that the OSD-generating unit 18 generates OSD information showing the transmission channel number, the source apparatus ID and the format information from the transmission channel number of channel field, the source apparatus ID of the SID field and the format information of the EMT field received from the control unit 30, supplying the OSD information to the superposition circuit 19 and display (Figs. 3 and 6, col. 15, line 17 to col. 16, line 59). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the display input source as taught by Utsunomiya et al's system in order to prevent the user from incorrectly misinterpreting the undisplayed digital data as a failure occurring in an apparatus.

Claim 6 is rejected for the same reason as discussed in claim 5.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Sok (US Patent No. 6,229,763 B1) discloses technique for setting time of apparatus which receives signals from analog and digital channels.

Dokic (US Patent No. 5,959,659) discloses MPEG-2 transport stream decoder having decoupled hardware architecture.

Gimby (US Patent No. 5,850,266) discloses video port interface supporting multiple data formats.

Tseng et al. (US Patent No. 5,625,416) disclose video communication controller utilizing multiple data channels to deliver separate program segments.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Trang U. Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-7358. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 AM - 5:30 PM, Monday to Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David L. Ometz can be reached on (571) 272-7593. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

December 6, 2006

Trang U. Tran
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2622